



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 LANSING

May 23, 2016

**REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION**

**Carol Sue Reader**  
**Candidate for Judge of the 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court**  
**Regular Term, Incumbent Position**

**NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** 600 signatures.

**TOTAL FILING:** 814 signatures.

**RESULT OF FACE REVIEW:** 700 face valid signatures; 114 invalid signatures.

Total number of signatures filed:		814
Address errors by signers (incomplete or incorrect address, dual jurisdiction entry, etc.):		52
Date errors by signers (dated after circulator, invalid date such as date of birth):		12
Other signature errors (duplicates, etc.):		4
Signer not registered to vote or not registered to vote in the district:		43
Circulator errors (date omitted, etc.):		3
Face valid signatures:		700

**TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES QUESTIONED UNDER CHALLENGE:** 234 signatures challenged for registration status and address errors.

**ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGE:** Challenges against 99 signatures overlapped face review; 31 additional signatures were determined to be invalid; 104 challenged signatures were determined to be valid.

Total number of signatures filed:		814
Signatures discounted under face review:		114
Signatures discounted under challenge (address errors, signature errors, signer not registered to vote or not registered to vote in the district):		31
Valid signatures after challenge:		669

**ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR CHALLENGE:** In addition to challenging the validity of individual signatures, the challenger, Judge Leslie Suzanne Geddis, alleged that the entire filing was deficient because (1) the “Term Expiration Date” was omitted from the heading of the

petition sheets, and (2) the candidate's address as printed in the heading lists "Howell" in the "City or Township" field.

The "Term Expiration Date" field is an optional field used to differentiate which position is being sought when partial terms and regular terms for the same office will appear on the ballot. For example, when a school board position is vacated triggering a mid-term election for the remainder of the term, and a regular term school board position are both to be elected at the same election, the candidate's entry in the "Term Expiration Date" field indicates which position is being sought. The same circumstance could apply where terms of varying lengths are to be elected at the same election for a single court. Here, the only position to be elected for the 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court is one Regular Term-Incumbent Position, which is clearly indicated in the heading of the petition. Staff recommends the rejection of this aspect of the challenge.

The candidate's entry in the "City or Township" field in the heading of the petition must reflect the address at which he or she is registered to vote. Under MCL 168.552a(2), a voter who signs a petition may enter the jurisdiction's mailing address in lieu of the legal name of the jurisdiction if the mailing address incorporates that jurisdiction (for example, a signer may write "Okemos" even though the jurisdiction of registration is "Meridian Township"). Here, the candidate wrote "Howell" in the petition heading, which is the mailing address of the jurisdiction where she is registered to vote (Deerfield Township). Staff recommends the rejection of this aspect of the challenge.

**FINAL RESULT:** 669 valid signatures.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Determine petition sufficient.